

Appln No. 10/561,741
Amdt date December 14, 2009
Reply to Office action of August 18, 2009

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A bearing arrangement for an adjusting device in a motor vehicle comprising:
 - a bearing point in the form of a bearing opening of a base part; and
 - a bearing element engaging the base part through the bearing opening;
 - wherein the base part has on the edge of the bearing opening at least one deformation area which as a result of plastic deformation protrudes radially inwards from the edge and acts as a radial support for the bearing element; and
 - wherein the base part is pivotable relative to the bearing element.
2. (Previously Presented) The bearing arrangement according to claim 1, wherein the at least one deformation area has in comparison to areas of the edge of the bearing opening without the at least one deformation area a lesser rigidity in respect of radially acting forces.
3. (Previously Presented) The bearing arrangement according to claim 1, wherein the deformation area is associated with at least one weakened area of a component part on the side of the deformation area remote from the bearing opening.
4. (Previously Presented) The bearing arrangement according to claim 1, wherein the deformation area is formed symmetrical relative to a central plane of the bearing opening and configured to change axially at its two ends into radially protruding sections on the edge of the bearing opening.

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5. (Previously Presented) The bearing arrangement according to claim 1, wherein several deformation areas are arranged in succession along at least a part of the perimeter of the edge of the bearing opening.

6. (Previously presented) The bearing arrangement according to claim 5, wherein the deformation areas are spread out round the entire perimeter of the bearing opening.

7. (Previously Presented) The bearing arrangement according to claim 5, wherein the deformation areas are disposed along that part of the perimeter of the edge on which during operation of the bearing arrangement comparatively lower radial forces act.

8. (Previously Presented) The bearing arrangement according to claim 5, wherein each deformation area is associated with a weakened area of a component part on the side of the deformation area remote from the bearing opening.

9. (Previously Presented) The bearing arrangement according to claim 8, wherein the weakened area of each deformation area comprises at least one recess of the component part.

10. (Previously presented) The bearing arrangement according to claim 9, wherein the recess is formed as a through opening.

11. (Currently Amended) The bearing arrangement according to claim 9, wherein the recess is ~~formed through a previously formed recess defined by a material displacement area in the form of a blind hole.~~

12. (Previously presented) The bearing arrangement according to claim 8 wherein the recesses have different depth in the axial direction of the bearing opening.

13. (Previously Presented) The bearing arrangement according to claim 9, wherein an extension of the deformation area in the axial direction of the bearing opening corresponds with one of the depth and width of the recess.

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14. (Previously presented) The bearing arrangement according to claim 3, wherein the at least one weakened area extends along the edge of the bearing opening.

15. (Previously presented) The bearing arrangement according to claim 3, wherein the deformation area is associated with two partial areas of a weakened area separated from each other by a web.

16. (Previously presented) The bearing arrangement according to claim 15, wherein the deformation area lies between the web and the bearing opening.

17. (Previously Presented) The bearing arrangement according to claim 1, wherein the bearing arrangement is configured to support an adjusting element of an adjusting device for a motor vehicle seat on a supporting seat part.

18. (Previously Presented) The bearing arrangement according to claim 1, wherein the bearing element is configured as a bearing bolt.

19. (Previously Presented) The bearing arrangement according to claim 18, wherein the bearing bolt has a bearing section as well as a connecting section.

20. (Currently Amended) A method for manufacturing a bearing arrangement according to claim 1, comprising:

providing a base part having a bearing point in the form of a bearing opening;

providing a bearing element engaging the base part through the bearing opening;

wherein the at least one deformation area on the edge of the bearing opening is deformed plastically so that it protrudes radially inwards from the edge and radially supports the bearing element; and

wherein the base part is pivotable relative to the bearing element.

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21. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 20, wherein the at least one deformation area is deformed inwards after inserting the bearing element into the bearing opening so that it radially supports the bearing element.

22. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 21, wherein the deformation area is deformed radially inwards through the action of external forces related to the bearing opening.

23. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 22, wherein the deformation area is deformed by a tool which creates radially inwardly acting forces.

24. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 21, wherein a cross-sectional dimension of the bearing opening prior to deformation of the at least one deformation area is larger in relation to a cross-sectional dimension of the bearing section of the bearing element.

25. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 20, wherein the deformation area is deformed prior to the insertion of the bearing element into the bearing opening so that it protrudes radially inwards from the edge of the bearing opening.

26. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 25, wherein the deformation area is deformed again as the bearing element is inserted into the bearing opening so that it bears free of play against the bearing element.

27. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 25, wherein an outer cross-sectional dimension of the bearing section of the bearing element is selected large enough so that the bearing element is only insertable into the bearing opening with a partial radial return of the deformation area outwards.

28. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 25, wherein the deformation area is deformed by the bearing element.

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29. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 20, wherein before producing the bearing opening in the base part at least one recess is created along the subsequent edge of the bearing opening.

30. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 29, wherein after forming the bearing opening in the base part action is applied to the recess by a tool so that a deformation area is produced on the edge of the bearing opening.

31. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 30, wherein the deformation area is formed symmetrical relative to the central plane of the bearing opening and changes in the axial direction at its ends into radially non-protruding sections of the edge of the bearing opening.

32. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 20, wherein a bearing section of the bearing element is used to mount the bearing element in the bearing opening.

33. (Previously Presented) The bearing arrangement according to claim 17, wherein the adjusting element is an adjusting lever.

34. (Previously Presented) The bearing arrangement according to claim 17, wherein the supporting seat part is a seat side part.

35. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 23, wherein the tool is a prick punch.